

In the Claims

Claims are amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A register for maintaining data relating to current location of users of a network for use by the network, the register being arranged for coupling to a mate register at a remote location for back up of the data, the register comprising a controller which is arranged to ~~being divided~~ divide the data into segments and arranged to carry out a partial handover to the mate register by handing over maintenance of data of one or some of the segments to the mate register temporarily.
2. The register of claim 1, the maintaining involving storing and updating the data and responding to network requests to access the data.
3. The register of claim 1 comprising a home location register.
4. The register of claim 1, arranged to carry out the handover on a per user basis.
5. The register of claim 1, the segmentation not being matched at the mate register.
6. (currently amended) The register of claim 1, ~~having a central wherein the controller for controlling the handovers and maintaining~~ maintains a map of which users belong to which segment.
7. (currently amended) ~~The register of claim 1~~ A register for maintaining data relating to current location of users of a network for use by the network, the register being arranged for coupling to a mate register at a remote location for back up of the data, the register comprising a controller which is arranged to divide the data

into segments and to carry out a partial handover to the mate register by handing over maintenance of data of one or some of the segments to the mate register temporarily, the controller being further arranged to carry out the partial handover for a given one of the users by sending a message to the mate register, setting the user's status to standby and diverting to the mate register any requests from the network to access the data for that user.

8. (currently amended) ~~The register of claim 1~~ A register for maintaining data relating to current location of users of a network for use by the network, the register being arranged for coupling to a mate register at a remote location for back up of the data, the register comprising a controller which is arranged to divide the data into segments and to carry out a partial handover to the mate register by handing over maintenance of data of one or some of the segments to the mate register temporarily, the controller being further arranged to receive a handover request from the mate register for a given one of the users, to set a user's status to active, and to respond to any requests from the network to access the data for that user.

9. (currently amended) ~~The register of claim 1~~ A register for maintaining data relating to current location of users of a network for use by the network, the register being arranged for coupling to a mate register at a remote location for back up of the data, the register comprising a controller which is arranged to divide the data into segments and to carry out a partial handover to the mate register by handing over maintenance of data of one or some of the segments to the mate register temporarily, the controller being further arranged to initiate a handback operation for a given one of the users, by requesting a copy of the data from the mate register, and once received, setting the user's status to active, and responding to any requests from the network to access the data for that user.

10. (currently amended) ~~The register of claim 1~~ A register for maintaining data relating to current location of users of a network for use by the network, the register

being arranged for coupling to a mate register at a remote location for back up of the data, the register comprising a controller which is arranged to divide the data into segments and to carry out a partial handover to the mate register by handing over maintenance of data of one or some of the segments to the mate register temporarily, the controller being further arranged to respond to a handback request from the mate register for a given one of the users, by sending a copy of the data to the mate, setting the user's status to standby, and diverting to the mate register any requests from the network to access the data for that user.

11. (original) The register of claim 10 arranged to respond to the handback request only when any transaction has ceased.

12. (currently amended) ~~The register of claim 1~~ A register for maintaining data relating to current location of users of a network for use by the network, the register being arranged for coupling to a mate register at a remote location for back up of the data, the register comprising a controller which is arranged to divide the data into segments and to carry out a partial handover to the mate register by handing over maintenance of data of one or some of the segments to the mate register temporarily, the controller being further arranged to cease backing up data with the mate register after a handover has been initiated.

13. (currently amended) ~~The register of claim 1,~~ A register for maintaining data relating to current location of users of a network for use by the network, the register being arranged for coupling to a mate register at a remote location for back up of the data, the register comprising a controller which is arranged to divide the data into segments and to carry out a partial handover to the mate register by handing over maintenance of data of one or some of the segments to the mate register temporarily, the controller being further arranged to request a full copy of data from the mate register for users of the handed over segment for whom the mate register is normally in an active state.

14. (currently amended) ~~The register of claim 1 implemented in the form of software.~~ A computer program product comprising a machine readable medium carrying instructions for operating a controller of a register in a network, the register being arranged for coupling to a mate register at a remote location for back up of the data, the instructions causing the controller to divide the data into segments and to maintain data relating to current location of users of a network for use by the network and to carry out a partial handover to the mate register by handing over maintenance of data of one or some of the segments to the mate register temporarily.

15. (original) A method of maintaining data relating to current location of users of a network for use by the network, the register being arranged to be coupled to a mate register at a remote location for back up of the data, the method having the steps of dividing the register into segments, and carrying out a partial handover to the mate register by handing over maintenance of data of one or some of the segments to the mate register temporarily.

16-18. (canceled)